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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

From: S. Klaus

Subject: German Scientists

RDS for XDS EXT. DATE

TS AUTH.

REA ON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKING ☐

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A conference took place at noon today in Mr. Acheson's office, at which there were present, in addition to Mr. Acheson, Assistant Secretary Braden, Colonel Ernest Gross (for A-H), Ben O'Sullivan (for A-H), as well as myself. Mr. Braden stated that the documents on the German scientists program indicated that the Inter-American commitments would be violated by the admission into this country of persons who would otherwise be excluded from the Hemisphere, and that, moreover, it was apparently the intention to grant them visa and immigrant status, etc. Although I remarked that Mr. O'Sullivan had (before we entered the office) stated (to Mr. Gross) that there was such an inconsistency, Mr. Gross stated that screening was provided so as to exclude dangerous Nazis under the PAPERCLIP directive. I then pointed out that the definitions varied, and that persons would be admitted necessarily, under the PAPERCLIP program, who would be excluded under the Inter-American program.

Mr. Acheson said that his understanding all along had been that there would be a thorough screening so that no persons would be admitted who were dangerous in the sense of our Inter-American commitments. The problem, therefore, he said, is one of administration only.

Mr. Braden and I pointed out that the PAPERCLIP document was so written as to permit the Army to interpret it as maximizing the number of persons who would be brought in, including political unemployable in Germany, while retaining in Germany anti-Nazis and similar persons for educational purposes; I pointed out that the investigation which was required by the SWGCC paper was limited to "available records" in Germany and to be handled by the

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Technical Services in the United States, which was a deliberate attempt to exclude investigation by experts such as military counter-intelligence and to avoid investigating current secret planning among these Germans in the United States. I said that the documents called for a policy of maximum visa issuance as soon as possible. This, I said, would involve us in a straight inconsistency with the Inter-American program.

Mr. Acheson said there was no doubt that the Army would try to get people by, but that we must insist on a proper administration. It was too late, he said, to change anything in the documents themselves since they had been approved by the President and by the Cabinet.

I pointed out that if we could have a sincere military custody program and postpone visa action until we were satisfied on an individual basis, Mr. Braden would have an appropriate reply when any charge was made as to our violation of the Inter-American commitments. This point was re-emphasized much more strongly by Mr. Braden. I pointed out that the Presidential directive in itself merely said that a "selected" number of persons, it was anticipated, might be admitted to immigrant status, and that there was no necessity under the directive to grant visas on a large scale right away. I also pointed out that the Army had the monopoly of fact-finding in Germany, and that this directive provided a monopoly of fact-finding in the United States for the Army.

Mr. Gross said that there was no doubt that the Army would pressure us but that he would insist that there be a thorough policing of this program, and that the Department could resist any visa pressure from the Army.

Mr. Acheson stated that he understood my concern about fact-finding, and that he thoroughly agreed with me when I pointed out that we had to make sure that there was no secret conspiracy to restore German military potential in the United States, or future security menace and no secret arrangements among these persons to act for German firms in cartels and the like.

The meeting was adjourned on the basis, therefore, that a proper policing arrangement would be made, and that we would get together on that basis.

In the hall, Mr. Gross stated to Mr. Braden and myself that O'Sullivan would undertake drawing up a paper on the subject of the policing and that nothing would be cleared on this subject hereafter without the concurrence of Mr. Braden and me, and that we would unitedly prevent Army pressure

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with respect to visas until we were satisfied with the evidence
after a thoroughgoing investigation.

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